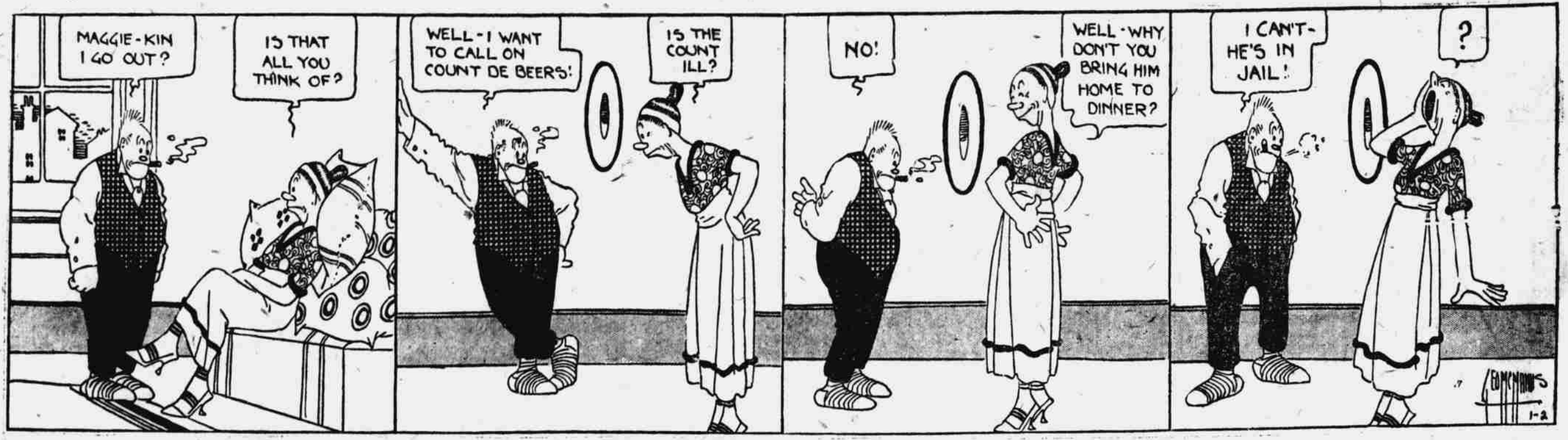


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### Fortunes Wasted Bolstering Ball Clubs

#### Owners Who Bought New Stars May Lose Old Ones

### Draft Threatens to Weaken Many Teams

#### Magnates Profess Optimism, But Admit That Enlistments Might Cause Strong Outfits to Crumble Overnight.

After looking into the bland countenance and listening to the suave words of major league base ball leaders, those who had viewed the 1918 base ball situation darkly weakened.

When the faltering pessimists later drank in the explosions of \$60,000 and \$75,000 trade talk, they wigwagged surrender and were ready to admit that base ball next year will go forward happily and profitably.

The magnates who have purred optimism into one another's ears at a 12-cylinder speed seem to have hypnotized themselves into believing that the year 1918 will present a primrose path.

Even the Washington club, which confounded all precedent by paying actual cash for Lavan and Shotton, and which last year experienced the worst attendance in long list of bad seasons, is actually—by publication—continuing on making money next campaign.

Where the Shoe Pinches.

In view of conditions, however, the optimism does not mean anything more than the magnates' stubborn refusal to acknowledge conditions which already exist, and which strongly militate against a successful year in 1918. These conditions are:

1. Governmental restrictions on railroad travel.
2. Reduction of professional base ball following, due to the enlistment or drafting of hundreds of thousands of fans.
3. Weakening of teams—certain to follow the next draft announcement.
4. Growing economy of everybody, especially in limiting amusement expenditures.
5. Practical impossibility of reducing big major league overhead, to meet decreased receipts.
6. Rapid increase of popular opinion regarding the war.

War Spirit Grips Players.

That the base ball world is itself growing restless under war conditions and is humanly eager to get into the game with both feet is evident from recent developments which include the daily enlistment of major league players and from the eagerness of the president of the American league himself to take a part in war work.

How strong a bearing the enlistment of players is going to have on the base ball season is evident from the fact that one club alone, the Athletics, has lost nine men through this cause. The native manhood existing among base ball players is asserting itself, and before the season opens many teams will have to readjust lineups badly broken by losses of stars.

Perhaps the big surprise to the magnates has been the actions of the players. It has been tacitly assumed that the supposed mercenary motives of the men would keep down enlistments to a negligible number and that the draft would be the only way in which a team's base ball strength would be depleted. As a matter of fact the war fever is spreading like fire among the patriotic young men of the base ball world and volunteer enlistments are almost daily reported.

Even men like Eddie Collins, married and having children, are wavering, notwithstanding contracts for big salaries would have to be sacrificed.

War May Weaken Leaders.

The outstanding possibility now is that all the building and trading of today may be set aside or nullified by the voluntary entry into the war of prominent players. No magnate is guaranteed against this contingency; and that all club owners recognize the possibility is shown by the protecting clauses in agreements, annulling trades and sales in case the man bargained for goes to war before the season opens.

Only two magnates of the base ball world appear not to have been inoculated by the assumed confidence in 1918 prospects—Connie Mack and William Baker of the Philadelphia American and National league clubs, respectively. Judging from the fact that each of these gentlemen sold the backbone of his club for alleged fabulous prices indicates that they look for stormy times and prefer to get from under while the getting is good. Both by their sales of star players have fortified themselves to the reported extent of \$60,000 and \$50,000 against financial loss.

With draft and enlistment threatening to wreck any or all clubs and bringing them down to a common weak footing, Mack and Baker appear to have acted more wisely than the money spenders. It would indeed be the irony of fate if these much criticized owners should, when the season is under way, find that war had cut their rivals down to Philadelphia stature.

Base Ball Able to Stand It.

One of the things which may bolster up major league confidence in

### SOUTH SIDE

### MICHAEL HIGGINS ANSWERS LAST CALL

#### Head of Higgins Packing Company Dies at Age of 55 Years After Illness of One Day.

Michael Higgins, aged 55 years, head of the Higgins Packing Co., died at his home, 3632 South Twenty-third street, Monday morning, after an illness of less than a day. Death was caused from acute indigestion.

Mr. Higgins founded the Higgins Independent packing plant at Fortieth and L streets 12 years ago. The business was a success and has grown rapidly. The year just ended has been a prosperous one for the packing company.

Funeral arrangements will not be completed until word is received from Michael Higgins, jr., who is in training at the aviation school of marines at Pensacola, Florida.

Mr. Higgins is survived by his widow and seven children, Mrs. Leonard Blessing, Mrs. Edward Kelly, Miss Genevieve, Michael, jr., John, Francis and Anthony. The family home is on the South Side.

### Gene Melady Makes Huge Hit With Hungry Newsies

Gene Melady, South Side philanthropist, bought a big dinner at the Exchange dining hall for two hungry "newsies" Monday.

"Aw, gee," exclaimed one of them as he tackled his pie, "I don't blame Earl Caddock for fighting for him. I would too, wouldn't you?"

And his companion, too full for speech, nodded emphatically.

### Start the New Year Right.

Start a Thrift Savings Club account this week. Deposit a small amount, whatever suits your convenience, regularly each week.

LIVE STOCK NATIONAL BANK, Junction 24th and N Sts.

### Speaks Nine Languages; Big Aid to Draft Board

Louis Kulowik, 4433 South Thirty-second street, can speak nine languages and by reason of that accomplishment is helping the registrants at the South Side city hall fill out their questionnaires. If the foreigner is a Russian, a Pole, or a Serb, he is turned over to Kulowik, who can converse with him in his own tongue, explaining the government's questions and helping him with his answers.

Kulowik was born in Poland and studied three foreign languages in the Polish school. He served three years in the Austrian army and learned other foreign languages at that time. He can speak German, Polish, Russian, Jewish, Serbian, Moravian, English, and many of the Slavic dialects.

Kulowik is foreman in the casing department at Armour & Co.'s packing house.

### Wife Alleges Husband's Charges Are Camouflage

Mary Ringo, answering Charles Ringo's petition for divorce, declares that his allegations are "a mass of camouflage to cover up his shortcomings as a husband."

Charles Ringo alleges that his wife was devoid of the common instincts of motherhood. He asked for the custody of their infant child, saying he believed the baby would die unless it was taken from its mother.

Mrs. Ringo avers that she had to work at the packing house to pay the house rent in spite of the fact that her husband was getting good wages as a street car conductor. She alleges that he abandoned her in January, 1917, when the baby was one month old and contributed only \$3 a week to their support. He asked to be taken back in May, she avers, but he left her when she was compelled to quit working again. She claims she paid all but \$41 on the house furniture.

### Woe for Beau Brummels; Price of Neck Shave Up

More rough-necks! There are likely to be more rough-necks in town, for the barbers are contemplating charging an extra jib for swiping the razor over the bit of meat that connects the head and shoulders.

This has been unofficially announced already. It is the ghost of the high cost of living.

The cost of shampoos also may be boosted.

### Slacker Sentenced to Ten Years' Imprisonment

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 1.—Robert W. Franke, Jr., of St. Louis, who failed to go to Camp Funston when he was called in the draft, today was dishonorably discharged from military service and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

### South Omaha Brevities

A gas heater for sale. 1706 W street, South 2223.

Steam-heated apt. in Scarago Bldg.; 4 rms., \$25.00. E. H. Benner Co. D. 4065.

The 1918 Christmas savings are in force at the Packers National bank. Call for your cards. Join now.

Plumbing service of quality. Call Sheehan Plumbing Co. Prompt Service. 24th and K. Telephone South 2051.

Attractive 4-room apartment in Scarago Bldg.; 418 South Twenty-fourth street. \$25 summer, \$30 winter. E. H. Benner Co. D. 4065.

Telephone South 900 and order a case of Ona or Lactonada, the healthful, refreshing Home Beverages, delivered to your residence. Omaha Beverage Co.

### British Gain Seven Miles at Jerusalem

London, Jan. 1.—The British now have four strong positions interposed between the enemy and Jerusalem instead of the one that existed before the recent serious Turkish attempt, with German assistance, to retake the city, says Monday's war office statement on the Palestine operations. The British advance scored northwest of Jerusalem in these operations represents a gain of seven miles.

### ESTABLISH STATE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

#### Three Schools in Alliance With Department of Vocational Training Are Assured.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 1.—(Special.)—Three schools will be started in connection with the new department of vocational training under State Director C. A. Fulmer. Miss Alice Loomis, federal agent for home economics education, has been in conference with Dr. Fulmer during the last few days and regarding the work of the department the latter says:

"The appropriations for the semester, which begin about February 1, will probably not permit the establishment of more than a few type schools in home economics. These types will be worked out carefully and made the pattern for other schools to be established during the school year, beginning September, 1918.

"The type schools will likely be of three as follows: One day school in a city with over 25,000 population, one day school in a small town, and one night school in a city of over 25,000 population. The small town type will probably be a consolidated high school.

"The public will be kept in close touch with the development of plans for all vocational work in Nebraska through the press. Type schools in agriculture, and trades and industries will also be established at once. Detailed plans covering almost every phase of the work have already been worked out by the state board, consisting of Governor Neville, chairman; George H. Hall, treasurer, and W. H. Clemmons, secretary.

### American Draft Subjects Can Enlist in England

London, Jan. 1.—Robert P. Skinner, the American consul general, has notified Americans in England who are subject to the draft that they will not be compelled to return to the United States to enlist in the army if called, but may be examined here and report to the London recruiting office, from which they will be assigned to army units on this side.

Previously the men had been advised to return home at their own expense and join army units there. Many of the eligibles regarded this as a hardship.

### 86 Degrees Below Zero at Dawson and Yukon

Dawson, Y. T., Jan. 1.—Eighty-six degrees below zero is the record for this season in a cold spell which began several weeks ago. This was at the mouth of the Pelly river, 150 miles up the Yukon river from here. At White Horse, the head of navigation on the Yukon, 72 below has been registered.

Thermometers in Dawson have registered between 50 and 60 below for a month. Hospitals are crowded with pneumonia cases and 18 deaths have occurred during the cold spell. No funerals are possible until the weather moderates.

### Joy Rides Fill Graves.

Chicago, Jan. 1.—"Wine, women, gasoline and carelessness," cost the lives of 362 persons in automobile accidents in Chicago in 1917, according to the report of Coroner Hoffman today. The figures represent an increase of 30 per cent over those of 1916.

### Russ Securities Bared.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The French government has forbidden importation into France of all Russian government securities after January 1.

### Rail Heads Curtail Shippers' Privilege

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—Solicitation of freight and passenger business will immediately be discontinued by railroads under the jurisdiction of the western department of railroads war board. This became known today after a session of the western department called into conference by the chairman, William Sprague, president of the railroad executives representing the Routing of freight by bills of lading, which has in the past been the shipper's privilege, will now become merely the expression of a preference which the railroads will reserve the right to disregard when speed and efficiency of transportation will thereby be promoted.

### GERMANY CLUTCHES CHANCE FOR PEACE

#### Washington Officials Believe Tenton Military Leaders Are Incapable of Further Offensives.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Insidious efforts of the Germans to involve the United States and the entente allies in the peace negotiations proceeding with the Russian Bolsheviks have developed to such a stage that in the opinion of some officials here notice of the propaganda must be taken and an attempt made to neutralize it.

If the British and French premiers are to meet in Paris soon with the purpose of discussing the advisability of receiving and answering the proposals of the Bolsheviks to participate in the negotiations, as has been reported by a leading conservative British newspaper, they will act in accord with the agreement rigidly adhered to by all the entente allies until the defection of Russia not to entertain any peace proposals from the enemy without consultation with each other. In diplomatic circles here today it was said that any decision from such a meeting would be promptly laid before the American State department.

General staff officers here are understood to attach great significance to the present attempt of the entente powers to force the entente powers into peace negotiations. To their mind it is a clear indication that the German military leaders have now accomplished all that they feel capable of doing in the field. They can "hold on" for a long time yet, but it is suggested that they cannot extend fields of occupation without enormous loss of men and time at the risk of a terrible defeat. Therefore the entente diplomats seek to realize everything possible from what the German armies have done, and the Brest-Litovsk negotiations are the first steps toward that end.

### Food Administration Boosts the Humble "Spud"

Washington, Jan. 1.—The Irish potato on every table in America every day in the year is the object of a campaign begun today by the United States food administration. Grocers will be asked to inaugurate a "potato day" each week, selecting whatever day is slack in deliveries and making a special price.

"Germany's wise use of potatoes helps her to hold out against the allies," the food administration says in urging that the enemy's own methods be turned against him.

You can secure a maid, stenographer or bookkeeper by using a Bee Want Ad.

### U. S. SPEEDS FUEL TO COLD NEW ENGLAND

#### Rush Nine Steamers to Relieve Tieup in Northeast; Send 1,500 Cars Coal From Pennsylvania Tracks.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 1.—Measures to relieve the New England coal shortage were taken tonight after the situation had claimed the attention during the day of four government departments. The problem was taken up jointly by the fuel administration, the Navy department, the shipping board and the new director general of railroads. The measures were announced:

The shipping board ordered nine steamers to proceed immediately to Hampton Roads for coal cargoes for New England and directed them to remain in the service until the shortage is over.

The Navy department put at the disposal of the fuel administration a part of the large store of steam coal at the Boston navy yard and arranged to employ idle naval tugs and colliers in transporting coal from Hampton Roads to New England ports. It also instructed navy yard commanders to distribute to the poor scraps of timber at the yards.

The director of railroads released 1,500 cars of coal standing on Pennsylvania tracks between New York and Harrisburg, Pa., and directed that they go immediately to New England cities.

Beat the Old Year Out and say, "Resolved, That I will deposit each week in the Thrift Xmas club of the Live Stock National bank a certain amount (determine that amount yourself!)"

### PHOTOPLAYS.

**SUN**  
Last Times Today  
**Harold Lockwood**  
—in—  
**"The Square Deceiver"**  
Thurs.—Gladys Brockwell

**Strand**  
MARGUERITE CLARK  
—in—  
**"Bab's Matinee Idol"**  
**"Taming Target Center"**  
Mack Sennett Screen

**EMPIRESS**  
LAST TIMES TODAY  
Presenting  
**FOUNTAIN OF LOVE**  
Musical Comedy With Girls  
**VOLTAIRE & LLOYD**  
Master Musicians and Mimics  
**DOLCE SISTERS**  
Dainty Singing Comedienne  
**FOGARTY & WILLIAMS**  
Too Foolish for Anything

**MUSE**  
FOX KIDDIES  
Stars of  
**"Jack and the Beanstalk"**  
In Their Second  
**WONDER PICTURE**  
**TREASURE ISLAND**  
Matinee Prices Same As Night

**Hipp** ALWAYS A GOOD SHOW  
—1503 Harvey—  
Last Times Today  
**WILLIAM DUNCAN**  
in **"The Tenderfoot"**

**HAMILTON** 40th and Hamilton  
Today, **NORMA TALMADGE**  
in **"FANTHEA"**

**SUBURBAN** Phone Col. 2841  
Today, **MIRIAM COOPER**, in **"THE INNOCENT SINNER"**

**LOT HROP** Today and Thursdays  
**C. AUBREY SMITH**, in **"THE WITCHING HOUR"**

**LIBERTY** 24th and Fort Colfax 2647  
Today, **GLADYS HULETTE** in **"THE STREETS OF ILLUSION"**

**AMUSEMENTS.**  
**EMPIRESS**  
LAST TIMES TODAY  
Presenting  
**FOUNTAIN OF LOVE**  
Musical Comedy With Girls  
**VOLTAIRE & LLOYD**  
Master Musicians and Mimics  
**DOLCE SISTERS**  
Dainty Singing Comedienne  
**FOGARTY & WILLIAMS**  
Too Foolish for Anything

**ALICE BRADY**  
—in—  
**"Her Silent Sacrifice"**

**OMAHA'S FUN CENTER**  
**Gayety** Daily Mat., 15-25-50c. Evenings, 25-50-75c-\$1.  
AN AUSPICIOUS START FOR 1918  
MAX SPIEGEL'S Merry Rounders Musical Burlesque  
Abe Reynolds, Superb Florence Mills and a Typically Spiegelsque Production of Limitless Prigality. The Ultra-smart in Curious, Liveliest Show in Town.  
LADIES' DIME MATINEE WEEK Dances Sat. Mat. & Wk. Stone & Pillard & "Social Mads."

**Orpheum**  
MAX BLOOM in the BROADWAY REVUE; MILO; SARAH PADDEN, in "THE CLOUD"; Betty Bond; Phina & Co.; Hughes Musical Trio; Hamilton & Hanson; Orpheum Travel Weekly.

**EUGEN YSAYE**  
VIOLINIST  
In Recital at the  
**AUDITORIUM**  
FRIDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 4  
Seats, 50c to \$1.50—Box Office Open.

**Piles Fistula—Pay When Cured**  
A mild system of treatment that cures Piles, Fistula and other Rectal Diseases in a short time, without a severe surgical operation. No Chloroform. Either or other general anesthetic used. A cure guaranteed in every case accepted and testimonials of more than 1000 prominent people who have been permanently cured.  
**DR. E. R. TARRY** 240 Bee Building OMAHA, NEBRASKA